FIE

Handgun Guide

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Handgun Heritage

Part of the American folklore is the Winning of the West and the part that the handgun played in it. We are all familiar with the movie and TV cowboy with a lowslung revolver on his hip. Truth is, the handgun was an indispensable tool, along with the rifle and the plow, in the opening and settling of vast reaches of our nation.

Today, handguns provide a source of healthy recreation and competition, ranging from informal plinking to international competition in the Olympic Games. The modern handgunner is rewarded with a lifetime of challenging fun and pleasant relaxation. The rules are simple and the enjoyment is considerable.

That's what this booklet is about.

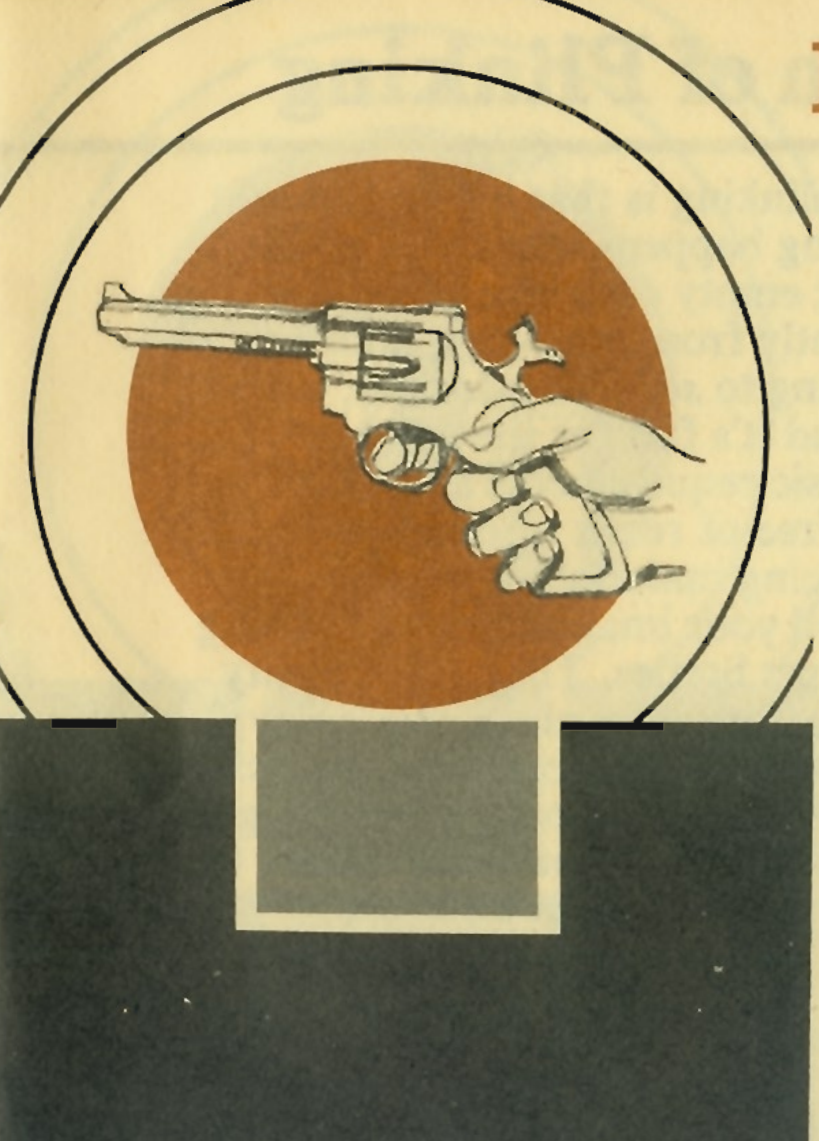
KNOW YOUR GUN – READ YOUR MANUAL

Basics of Safety

Basic safe handling is largely a matter of common sense and the development of safe habits. For example:

- Never point a handgun at anything you don't intend to shoot.
- Never accept a handgun without opening it yourself to check to see if it's loaded.
- Always open your handgun and keep it open after firing.
- Carry loaded revolvers with an empty chamber under the hammer.
- Carry loaded pistols with the magazine inserted but with an *empty* chamber.
- Always empty handguns before carrying into a house, car, boat or RV.
- Be sure of your backstop and what lies beyond it before you shoot.

Please refer to your instruction booklet and *remember:* Treat every handgun with respect.

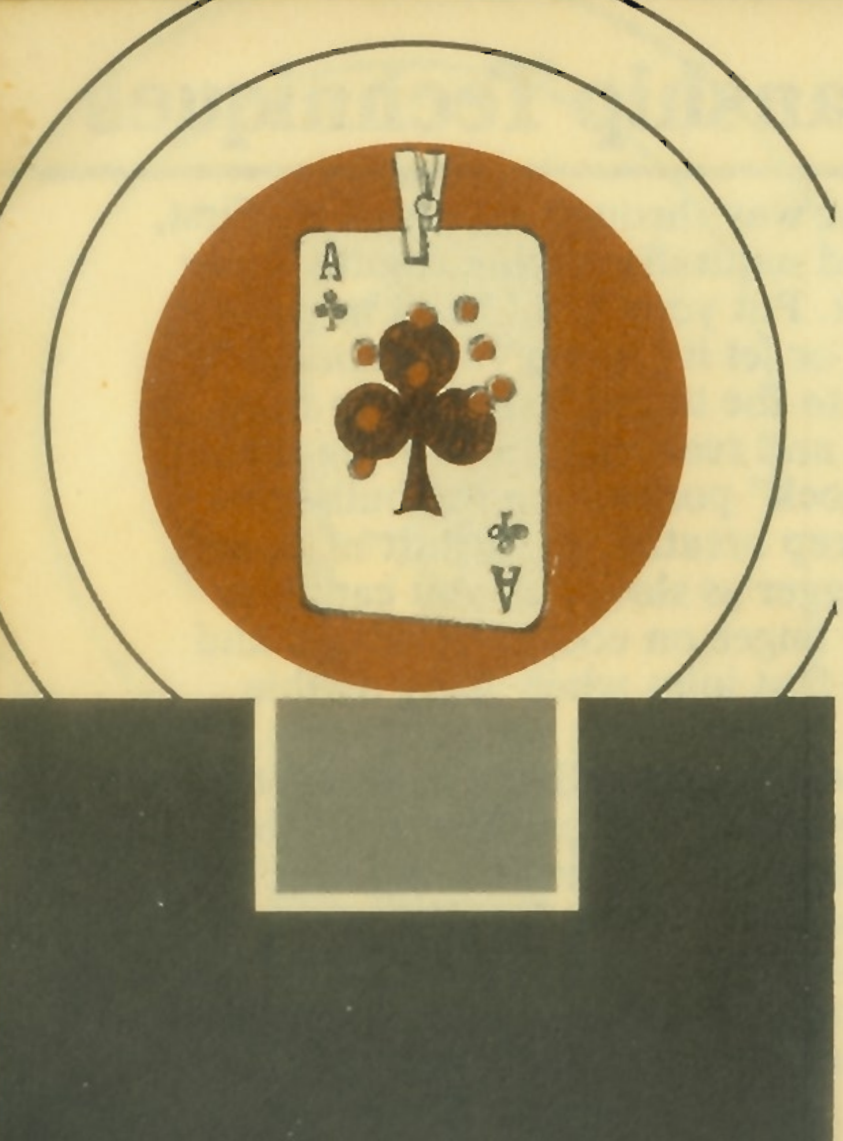


Marksmanship Techniques

Let's talk our way through a good shot. First, stand easily and naturally, facing slightly away from the target. Put your "off" hand in your trouser pocket or let it rest on your hip. Raise your handgun to the target, extend arm fully, align the front and rear sights and bring them to the "six o'clock" position on the bullseye. Now, take a deep breath, exhale part of it, and squeeze the trigger as slowly as you can. Use the tip of your finger on cocked revolvers and pistols and the first joint when firing double action.

The sights will wander. They do for everyone. Slow your squeeze when they're off the target, and add to your squeeze when they're back on. Be surprised when the shot goes off. Keep your squeeze that slow. Don't hurry.

Now practice this repeatedly. You're on your way to being an excellent handgunner.



The Fun of Plinking

The fun of plinking is that it's an *action* sport. Something happens when you plink. Tin cans jump; empty cartridge boxes are snatched instantly from atop logs; and there's something to *see*. It's informal; it's inexpensive; and it's fun for the whole family. The basic requirements are a high, safe backstop free of rocks or other potential ricochet-producing material, a handgun, ammunition and your imagination in thinking up targets. Forget bottles. They leave plenty of glass and can cause ricochets. But enjoy yourself. No one keeps score, and you can shoot all you want. Be a good citizen though. Clean up the area before you leave. That way you can be sure you can go back.

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Competitive Shooting

Many handgun enthusiasts find great pleasure and satisfaction from shoulder-to-shoulder competition on the target range. Highly organized competition exists at club, municipal, state, regional and national levels. Courses of fire include slow, timed and rapid fire as well as the newer combat, silhouette and Olympic courses. Generally, full participation calls for use of 22, 38 and 45 caliber handguns. Many shooters prefer special target sights, special grips and other aids to higher scores and smaller groups.

There are far too many events to begin to list them here, but the principal administering organization is the National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue N.W., Washington D.C. 20036. They will be happy to guide you to a nearby club or match.

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Handgun Hunting

Handgun hunting is perhaps the most challenging of all shooting sports because it requires, in addition to a high level of marksmanship, an ability to get close to game for the sure placement of a shot. Most handgun hunters like, when possible, to shoot from a sitting position using a two-handed hold, and some even use special handgun scope sights. For small game at fairly close ranges, a 22 handgun is ideal; and for large, fairly heavy game such as deer, calibers such as the 357 magnum can do a fine job. But remember, in no case are you using a firearm with the longer range properties of a rifle. Learn your game—know your handgun—get close and then know what it's like to succeed at a demanding sport.

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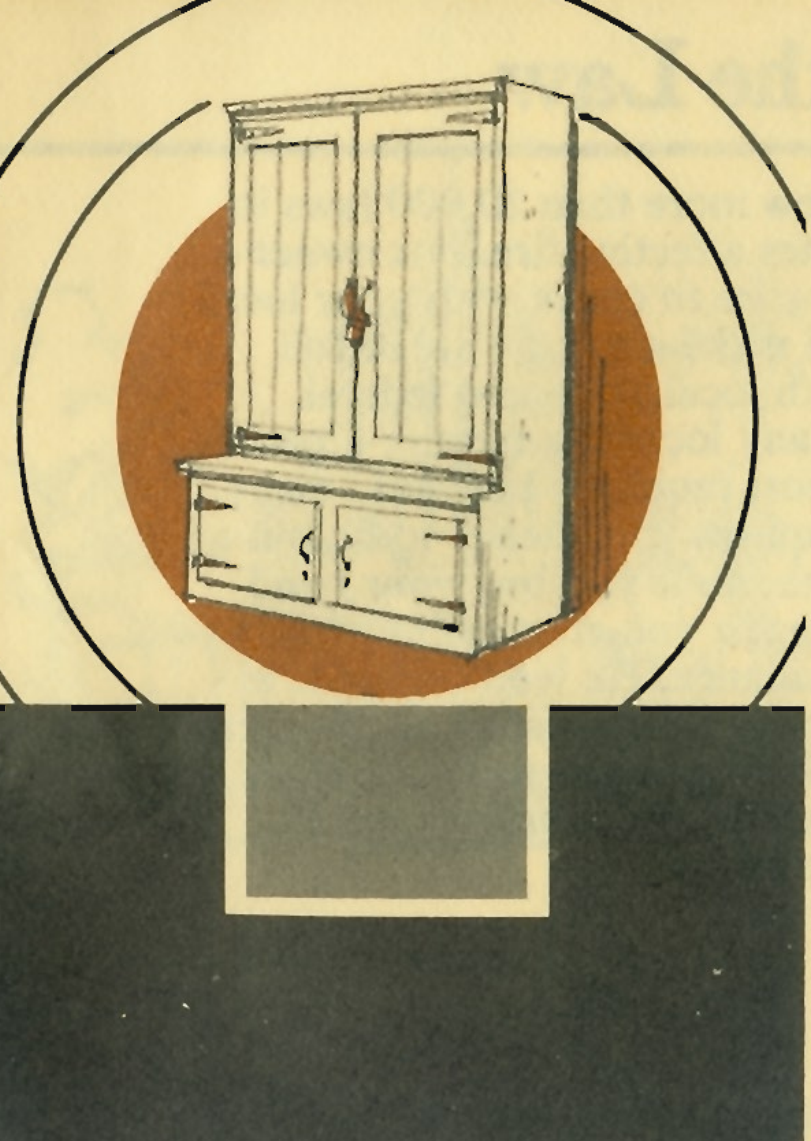

Handguns in the Home

Bring only unloaded handguns into the home, and then lock them up, out of reach of children. You might want to invest in patented trigger locks that can be opened only by key. Lock your ammunition in a safe place away from the firearm. If self-protection is an overriding consideration, you may keep the handgun readily available but *unloaded* and the cartridges separate from it.

Make your guns safe against theft. Keep them in special heavy, theft-resistant metal gun cases or similar limited-access locations.

But, most of all, use education. Teach your household members safe handling techniques. Make them understand, as you do, that a handgun is not only something to have fun with; it's a responsibility they all must share.

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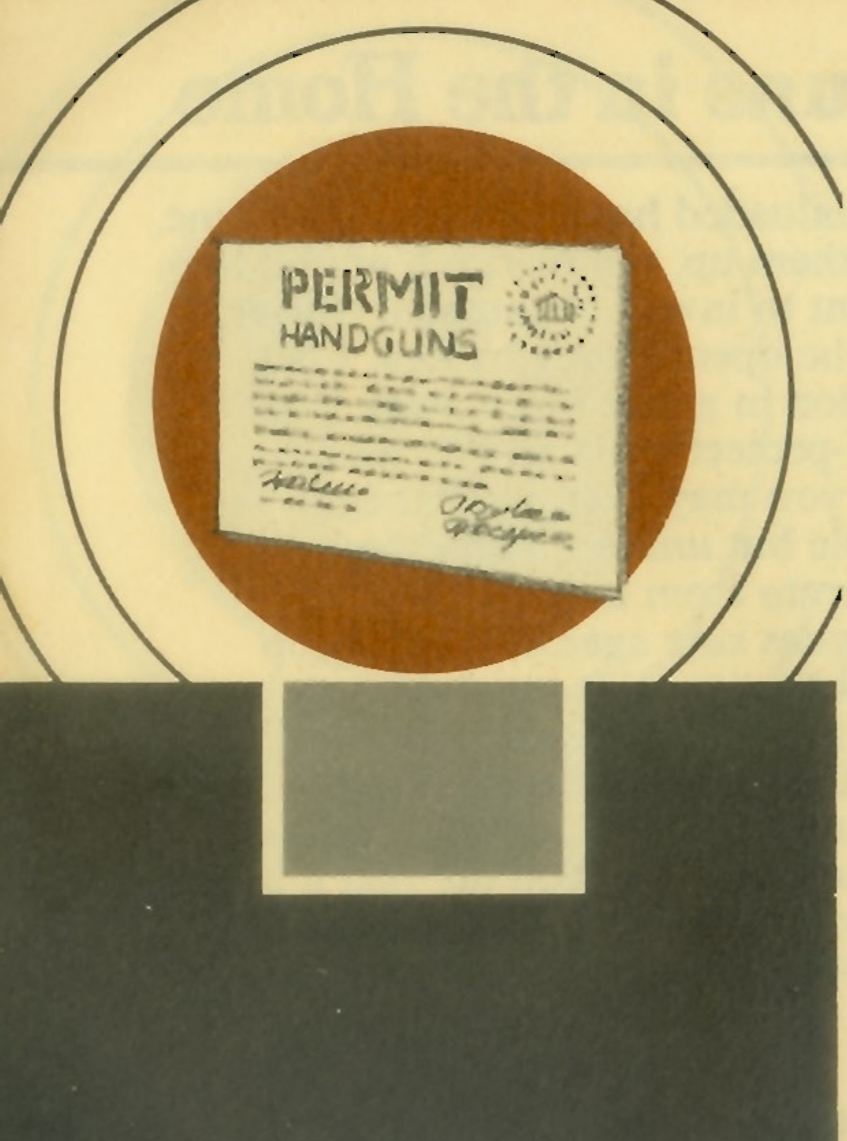

Know the Law

There are now more than 20,000 laws in the United States affecting firearms ownership. Please be sure to check with your local authorities and make sure you are in full compliance with local, state and federal regulations. Many localities require a permit to purchase; most require a permit to carry. Federal law requires your dealer to fill out a Form 4473 at the time you buy your handgun, but we suggest you contact him well in advance for guidance. He won't sell you a handgun until you have satisfied all the legal requirements. It's up to you to do so. Obey the law, and you're free to enjoy your handgun to the fullest.

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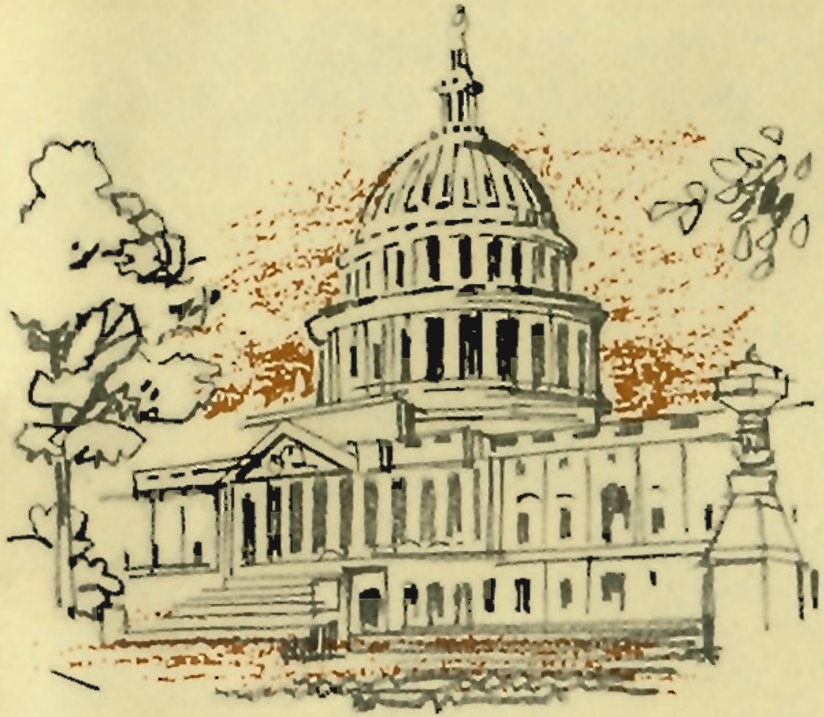

Legislation

Laws regulating the sale and ownership of handguns are continually being offered on the state and local level. Your responsibility as a handgun owner, a sportsman and a responsible citizen is to be well informed on such legislation and to voice your support or opposition with your appropriate federal, state or local representatives. The name and address of your local representative is always available from town hall, the local newspaper or radio station, the National Rifle Association or the local League of Women Voters.

REMEMBER, CARELESSNESS CAUSES CALAMITY. LEARN TO BE A SAFE SHOOTER SO THAT YOU CAN ENJOY YOUR REVOLVER OR PISTOL FOR MANY YEARS. THERE ARE NO SAFE GUNS . . . THERE ARE ONLY SAFE GUN OWNERS.

RESPECTFULLY
F.I.E.